

Setting Goals

The Bible says that where there is no vision, the people perish (Proverbs 29:18). Your vision, or where you are going in life, is the fulfillment of your purpose in life. A good way to think of vision is to consider what you would like written on your tombstone when you die. It is how you would like to be remembered. Not only is important to have a vision individually, it is important to develop a vision as a couple. Without a vision, people tend to go their own way. A couple going their own ways individually find it almost impossible to grow in intimacy and become one. They are not fulfilling God's purpose for their marriage, and may end up going their own ways to the point of ending the marriage. Look to the future and dream together.

A mission statement is a statement of how you will fulfill your vision. It is your philosophy or creed, built on the values and principles upon which all that you do in life is based. The mission statement will reflect what your life is about, what you stand for, and how you are going to reach your vision. It is also important to develop a mission statement as a couple. What is important you individually and as a couple? What do you stand for?

Goals specify the accomplishments to be achieved to realize your mission. A goal is defined as: "The purpose toward which an endeavor is directed; an objective." Goals are set in different areas of life to maintain the direction you have set with your mission statement.

It is important that you to set goals in your life and marriage. You may want to get away for a planning retreat—a weekend away without distractions to set goals and make plans. My wife and I do this yearly on our anniversary. We get away and review our goals and objectives. It is encouraging to see what the Lord has done in our lives over the past year. It is also a time to review what we didn't complete and reevaluate and adjust goals appropriately. Include time for

prayer in your planning. Set your goals and objectives with God's Word and His will for your life in mind.

Goals and objectives are the "what" you will do, plans are the "how" you do it, and the schedule is the "when" you will complete it. Use the Goal Setting/Planning Worksheet on the next page as an example to help you begin to put your vision and mission into action. There are seven areas to look at as you work together to create a plan for your lives, marriage, and family. This is not an all-inclusive list and you may want to add areas or change areas according to your personal preferences and needs.

Goals in the following areas are important:

Spiritual: How are you going to grow in your walk with the Lord, personally and as a couple? What areas can you improve?

Marriage: What can you do to improve your marriage? What do you need to do to grow in oneness?

Family: What do you want to do as a family? Where can you improve and grow?

Financial: What do you need to accomplish financially? What are you saving for? What bills do you need to pay off?

Personal: What personal things do you want to accomplish? Goals might be: read more, lose weight, exercise, education or training, connecting with other couples or people.

Career: What do you want to accomplish in your job? Are you going the direction you want to be going? What can you change? What about retirement?

Ministry: Are you ministering where God wants you? Where can you get involved?

Pray for God's guidance as you set goals together. Collaboration is key to establishing goals as a couple. Work together as a team to set goals for you as a couple and for your family.

"Your goals are the road maps that guide you and show you what is possible for your life." ~ Les Brown

Goal Setting/Planning Worksheet

Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed. ~ Proverbs 16:3

Mission Statement: _____

Goal Setting Areas	Objectives What is to be done	Plan How it will be done	Schedule Date to accomplish
<i>Spiritual</i>			
<i>Marriage</i>			
<i>Family</i>			
<i>Financial</i>			
<i>Personal</i>			
<i>Career</i>			
<i>Ministry</i>			